

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method of claim 21, further comprising providing a device having an elongated centralized vertical extension, said centralized vertical extension comprising a horizontal axis, and a left and a right lateral extension along said horizontal axis.
2. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 1, further comprising providing a device wherein said left and right lateral extensions comprise an inside edge, an outside edge, an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein said inside edge joins said centralized vertical extension to form a substantially horizontal plane.
3. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 2, further comprising providing a device wherein said upper surface forms an angle of about 0 to 60 degrees below said substantially horizontal plane.
4. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 2, further comprising providing a device wherein the length of said inside edge is less than the length of said outside edge.
5. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 2, further comprising providing a device wherein said inside edge has a greater thickness than said outside edge.

6. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 2, further comprising providing a device wherein said upper surface is barbed.

7. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 2, further comprising providing a device having a recess wherein said upper surface joins said centralized vertical extension.

8. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 21, further comprising providing a device having a flexible bladder.

9. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 8, further comprising providing a device wherein said flexible bladder comprises a material enclosing an internal cavity.

10. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 9, further comprising providing a device wherein said internal cavity is empty.

11. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 9, further comprising providing a device comprising ~~wherein said material comprises~~ a thin flexible biocompatible material.

12. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 9, further comprising providing a device comprising ~~wherein said material further comprises~~ a semi-permeable material.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 16, further comprising providing a device wherein said biocompatible fluid is a hydrogel.

15. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 9, further comprising providing a device comprising ~~wherein said material further comprises~~ an impermeable material.

16. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 9, further comprising providing a device wherein said internal cavity contains a biocompatible fluid.

17. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 1, further comprising providing a device wherein said centralized vertical extension has a trapezoidal, circular or curved shape.

18. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 21, further comprising providing a device ~~wherein said therapeutic or prophylactic device is made from a material selected from the group consisting of a biocompatible material, a bioactive material, and a bioresorbable material.~~

19. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic ~~device~~ method according to claim 21, further comprising providing a device having ~~wherein said therapeutic or prophylactic device comprises~~ a biocompatible fiber mesh.

20. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 21, further comprising providing a device comprising wherein said therapeutic
~~device comprises~~ a material selected from the group consisting of: expandable
polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE); a material to facilitate regeneration of disc tissue; and
a hygroscopic material.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for the therapeutic or prophylactic device ~~for treatment of~~ a spinal disc annulus having an aperture comprising the steps of: [[,]]

providing a [[the]] device comprising a biocompatible material for placement in and across the aperture such that said material forms a bridge providing a platform for a traverse of fibroblasts or other normal cells of repair existing in and around the various layers of the spinal disc annulus, and

acutely securing the device ~~having means for acute securement of said device to~~ said disc annulus.

22. (Canceled).
